[is also operable for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of the region where emission occurs.

3. (Amended) A system according to claim 1

wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is also operable for electronically altering the energy emitting characteristics of the region to] blocks [emission] transmission from a portion of the region while allowing [emission] transmission from another portion of the region.

4. (Amended) A system according to claim 1

wherein the guide element is elongated along an axis, and

wherein the region comprises an array of energy [emitting] transmitting areas spaced apart along the axis of the guide element.

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 4

B1 wherein each area comprises a band of energy [emitting] transmitting material wrapped about the axis of the guide element.

SPEC 6. (Amended) A system according to claim 4

wherein the areas comprise energy [emitting] transmitting material helically wrapped about and along the axis of the guide body.

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1

wherein the guide element is elongated about an axis, and

wherein the region comprises at least two elongated strips of energy [emitting] transmitting material extending along the axis and spaced apart circumferentially about the axis of the guide element.

9. (Amended) A system according to claim 7

B2 wherein the strips comprise a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide element.

11. (Amended) A system according to claim 1

wherein the region comprises a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide body.

12. (Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body comprising

a guide element for introduction into a body,

a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide element, and

control means responsive to a prescribed input command for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy [which, when emitted by the region, ablates tissue, the control means including means for receiving a prescribed input command and switching means responsive to the prescribed input command] and for electronically altering the energy [emitting] transmitting characteristics of the region to block [emmision] transmission from portion of the region while allowing [emmision] transmission from another portion of the region.

13. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of the region where [emmision] transmission is either blocked or allowed.

14. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically altering] electronically alters the energy [emitting] transmitting characteristics of the region to allow [emmision] transmission from spaced apart first and second portions of the region while blocking [emmision] transmission from a third portion of the region located between the first and second portions.

15. (Amended) A system according to claim 14

wherein, in response to still another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of at least one of the first, second, and third regions.

Sub C2

16. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein the guide element is elongated along an axis,

wherein the region comprises an array of energy [emitting] transmitting areas spaced apart along the axis of the guide element.

17. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein each area comprises a band of energy [emitting] transmitting material wrapped about the axis of the guide element.

B3

18. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein the areas comprise energy [emitting] transmitting material helically wrapped about and along the axis the guide body.

Sub C4

20. (Amended) A system according to claim 12

wherein the region comprises a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide body.

21. (Amended) A method for ablating tissue within a body comprising the steps of

introducing a guide element having a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material into the body,

exposing the region to body tissue, and

electronically coupling the region to a source of energy that, when [emitted] transmitted by the region, ablates tissue, and

B4

[operating a switch that in one position electronically alters the energy emitting characteristics of the region to emit as a zone of uniform polarity and that in another position electronically alters the energy emitting characteristics of the region to emit as zones of alternating polarity.]

electronically selecting between a first coupling mode wherein the energy is transmitted from the region as a zone of uniform polarity and a second coupling mode wherein the energy is transmitted from the region as zones of alternating polarity.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 21

and further including the step of electronically altering the energy [emitting] transmitting characteristics of the region to block [emmision] transmission from a portion of the region while allowing [emmision] transmission from another portion of the region.

23. (Amended) A method according to claim 21

and further including the step of electronically varying the length of the region where [emmision] transmission occurs.

24. (Amended) A method for ablating tissue within a body comprising the steps of

introducing a guide element having a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material into the body,

exposing the region to body tissue, and

electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy [that, when emitted by the region, ablates tissue,] and

electronically [altering the energy emitting characteristics of the region to] blocking [emmision] transmission of the energy from a portion of the region while allowing [emmision] transmission of the energy from another portion of the region.

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25. (Amended) A method according to claim 24

and further including the step of electronically varying the length of the region where [emmision] transmission is blocked.

26. (Amended) A method according to claim 24

and further including the step of electronically [altering the energy emitting characteristics of the region to allow emmision] allowing transmission of the energy from spaced apart first and second portions of the region while blocking [emmision] transmission of the energy from a third portion of the region located between the first and second portions.